

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph before the paragraph page 17, line 11:

- - In a preferred embodiment of the dental floss 10 of the present invention, the dental floss or a portion thereof is made from a material that is dissolvable in the human body, such as polyglycolic acid and polyglactic acid (commonly known by their trade names Dexon™ and Vicryl™, respectively) that are presently utilized for sutures. In one configuration of this embodiment, the entire dental floss strand 12 is made from these materials with the medicinal members 14 disposed thereon. In another configuration, shown in FIG. 4, a strand portion 30 of dental floss strand 12 is made from these materials with the medicinal members 14 located on the strand portions 30. In this configuration the preferred medicine product 16 is doxycycline hyclate, which solidifies as soon as it is exposed to human saliva. As known in the art, the polyglycolic acid and polyglactic acid materials are braided and provided in varying thicknesses, with the larger sizes being polyligmented, and is suitable for being dyed for medical purposes. In addition to being dissolvable, these materials are known to cause minimal tissue reaction. In a preferred embodiment, the strand portion 30 is made by providing a thickened area of the dental floss strand 12 and by dying it a separate color than the rest of the dental floss strand. Preferably, the strand portion 30 is bordered at its ends by a pair of segment areas 32, which can be areas of reduced thickness, that are suitable for relatively easily breaking off strand portion 30 from the remaining dental floss strand 12. In this manner, the strand portion 30 with the doxycycline hyclate thereon can be broken off and left inside the patient's periodontal pocket for the medicine to slowly release over time, such as seven days, while the strand portion 30 dissolves in the periodontal pocket. As such, the dental floss strand 12 is being utilized as a delivery system to deliver the doxycycline hyclate medicine 16 to the periodontal pocket without the need for injection by syringe. Unlike regular flossing, both the medicine product 16 and the strand portion 30 stay under the patient's gums for an extended period of time, with the absorbability of the strand portion 30 prolonging the effect of the doxycycline hyclate medicine 16. In use, the patient is supplied with a dental floss 10 configured as described above, namely with doxycycline hyclate medicine 16 on the

1 dissolvable strand portions 30 separated from dental floss strand 12 by segment areas 32, to treat his
2 or her periodontal pocket problem in a non-injection manner. The patient places the medicinal
3 member 14 on strand portion 30 in the periodontal pocket and then separates the strand portion 30
4 from the dental floss strand 12 to dispose the strand portion 30, with the doxycycline hyclate medicine
5 16 thereon, in the periodontal pocket. The patient then allows the medicine 16 to solidify so that it
6 may release the medicine over time and to allow the strand portion 30 to dissolve in the periodontal
7 pocket. In this manner the patient is able to treat his or her periodontal pocket with the need to go to
8 the dental office and, therefore, on a more regular basis. --

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RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Appl. # 10/695,033